

26 September 1951

The Reverend Vernon F. Gallagher, C.S.Sp.
President, Duquesne University
Pittsburgh 19, Pennsylvania

Dear Father Gallagher:

Immediately prior to his departure on a two weeks' trip, General Smith found your letter of July 25th attached to some other documents. He has consequently asked me to write you and express to you his regrets at not having replied to your letter many weeks ago.

The program suggested by Father Schlicht would appear to be of great interest and should have worthwhile results. In this I am sure that General Smith would agree with me. Unfortunately, the press of Agency business will preclude the possibility of his being able to participate in the two parts of the program which you mention. It would also seem somewhat late in the day to suggest a substitute; however, if we can be of any assistance in recommending a person qualified to teach the part of the program in relation to the effects of Communism on the Russian people and its effects on Russia's foreign policy, please do not hesitate to advise us.

I have also written to Father Schlicht, enclosing a copy of this letter. Again, I regret the delay in answering your letter and the possible inconvenience to you.

Respectfully yours,

[redacted]
Executive Assistant
to the Director

STAT

O/DCI JL:mlk

Distribution:

Orig - Addressee

1 - Father Schlicht

2 - DCI

1 - Originator

Official

SCI / G

The Reverend Vernon F. Gallagher, C.S.Sp.
President, Duquesne University
Pittsburgh 19, Pennsylvania

Dear Reverend Sir:

I ^{have} received your letter of July 25, 1951, regarding the proposed establishment of an Institute on the Philosophy of Communism, by Father Schlicht, a member of the faculty ^{at} Duquesne University.

Regrettably I am ~~somewhat~~ restricted in my present position, due to Presidential policy, which prevents me from commenting or participating in projects of this nature. Nevertheless, I have ~~asked~~ one of my staff, [redacted] whom I believe can be of assistance in this matter, to get in touch with Father Schlicht.

STAT

STAT cc: [redacted] w/basic

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1 August 1951

MEMORANDUM FOR GENERAL SMITH

The attached letter from the President of Duquesne requests your assistance in mapping out a program for the establishment of an Institute on the Philosophy of Communism at the University. Father Schlicht, who will conduct the program, has also written (Tab A) requesting you to actually teach two parts of the program ---- "the effects of Communism on the Russian people" and "its effects on Russia's foreign policy". If you cannot do this he asks that you recommend someone who could.

Possibly you may wish to recommend Dr. Sidney Hook, Chairman, Department of Philosophy, New York University. If so, do you wish me to prepare appropriate replies for your signature and a letter to Dr. Hook?

JS
OSE

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DUQUESNE UNIVERSITY
PITTSBURGH 19, PA.

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

July 25, 1951.

General Walter B. Smith
2430 E Street
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear General Smith:

Father Schlicht, one of our professors of history, is considering the establishment of an Institute on the Philosophy of Communism in the fall of this year. He is writing to you at the present time to request your advice and assistance in mapping out the program. I sincerely hope that you will not regard this as too much of an imposition on your time and energies. I know the many demands made upon you in these difficult days, but I hope that your busy schedule will leave some moments for the consideration of this problem.

I have wanted for a long time now to write and tell you how much I enjoyed reading My Three Years in Moscow. At this late date, however, the wide acclaim it received will not be greatly augmented by the praise of the "Russian Lieutenant".

All good personal wishes and thanks for your interest.

Very sincerely yours,

Vernon Gallagher, C.S.S.

(Rev.) Vernon F. Gallagher, C.S.S.,
President

STAT

Held until Sec. decides
whether or not he wants to
[redacted] to reply to letters
from Rev. Gallagher & Schlicht.

Sec

31 July 51

DUQUESNE UNIVERSITY
PITTSBURGH 19, PA.

July 25, 1951.

General Walter B. Smith
2430 E Street
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear General Smith:

We are trying to develop here at Duquesne University a propaganda campaign against Communism. The purpose in writing to you concerning this campaign is twofold. The first purpose, of course, is to ask your opinion of the effect of the program. The second purpose is to inquire if it will be at all possible for you to participate in it. However, first of all I will give you a short outline of the program.

As briefly as possible the story is this: during the past several years in my capacity as professor of history I have been dealing rather extensively with the philosophy of Communism. This has resulted in two surprising observations. First is that even among junior and senior college students over 90% of those who have taken the course have previously had no concept of what Communism really is. The second observation was that after studying this system a fair number of the students have become active in doing what they could to combat this evil. The other students are very definitely and strongly indoctrinated against Communistic propaganda. The idea occurred to me then that if this is true of college students who have nothing in particular in the way of material things to gain, why would it not also be true of men active in industry and labor.

Consequently, we have been trying to develop a program which would run along the following lines. There would be an institute lasting for about fifteen weeks with one two-hour period a week in the evening, beginning probably on November 5. It would cover the following topics: the first section would deal with the philosophy of Communism, showing its basic principles and its consequences as well as its contrast to the American principles. This section would be handled by myself chiefly because I have already had experience in teaching this topic. The next section would deal with the effects of this philosophy on the industrial Russian working man and on Russian business in general. The third section would deal with the effects of this philosophy on world aggression and on the handling of conquered countries. The next section will deal with the general propaganda, policy, and methods of the Communists.

DUQUESNE UNIVERSITY
PITTSBURGH 19, PA.

General Walter B. Smith

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July 25, 1951.

Finally we come down to the propaganda of the Communists in the United States, dealing with the organization's methods, successes and failures. This last section, if the program goes into effect, will be handled by Mr. Matt Cvetic who, by the way, thinks that it is an excellent program.

We believe that this program will appeal to all of the conflictin; groups in America regardless of the religious beliefs, economic beliefs or social aims because it appeals to our common Americanism. Secondly, it should develop a common fear of a successful Communistic movement, and thirdly, it should show that no matter what the particular aims of any one group in America may be, Communism is definitely not the answer.

We intend to run the program this year as a trial. If it does what we expect, then it is our hope that a national program along the same lines will develop, even to the extent, if necessary, of establishing a national propaganda center for the purpose of training teams of men to carry the campaign into all parts of the country and to all levels of American life. But it is first necessary to make sure that the program will accomplish its purpose. For that reason, we are trying to get key men from all the Labor and Industrial groups to attend the session this year. At the end of this session we will hold a discussion to find out if these representative men from all walks of life think the program is worth extering.

I suppose that it is being presumptuous even to ask this. However, I am wondering if you would possibly be in a position to teach the two parts of the program concerning the effects of Communism on the Russian people and its effects on Russia's foreign policy. If this is not possible for you to do, would you by any chance know of a man who has been born, raised and educated in Russia, has lived under the Communistic regime, and has then come to America and has been Americanized. The man, of course, would have to be well educated in order to inspire the respect of some of the men who, I hope, will attend this course and he must also be strongly anti-Communist.

Sincerely yours,

F. John R. Schlicht
(Rev.) John R. Schlicht, C.S.Sp.,